Vol. III. Numb. 123.

# The British Apollo:

OR,

## *Curious Amusements for the INGENIOUS.*

To which are Added the most

## Material Occurrences Foreign and Domestick.

*Perform'd by some of the Society of GENTLEMEN, Concern'd in the First and Second VOLUME, with the Assistance of other Ingenious PERSONS.*

From Wednesday January 3d. to Friday January 5th. 1711.

WHEREAS the Subscribers to this Paper (last Quarter) paid their Money to a Servant of the Proprietors; it being too much Trouble for one to gather in the same; you are therefore desired to pay it to the Men as formerly, who will give you a Printed Receipt for the same, Sign'd by,

*J. Mayo.*

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## GENTLEMEN,

Q. I *Desire you to Reconcile the* 9th. Chapter *of the* Acts *and the* 7th Verse, *to* Chapter *the* 22d. *and the* 9th. *And you will highly Oblige,*

*Your Humble Servant,* J. S.

*A.* Commentators have found out various ways to reconcile the seeming Contradiction in these two Places: The most plausible seems to be this. They heard a Voice, but ἐκ ἤκουσαν *they understand not*, the Words of him that spake unto me. For ἐκ ἀκούειν frequently in Scripture signifies not to understand what we hear. Thus God saith of the Builders of *Babel*, *let us confound their Tongues*, ἵνα μὴ ἀκούσωσιν, *that they may not understand one anothers Speech.* Gen. 11. 7. And St. *Paul* saith, *He that speaketh in an unknown Tongue, speaketh not to Men but to God,* οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀκούει, *for no Man understands him.* 1 Cor. 14. 2. Several other Instances may be produced, but these are sufficient to shew that our Translators might with as good (if not better) Reason render ἐκ ἤκουσαν in *Chap.* 22. *they understood not*, as they have done in these Instances here produced, and so removed the Appearance of this Contradiction.

Q. Gentlemen, *Pray what is the meaning and Original of the Word* Yule, *and why is Christmas so called in the Northern and several other Parts of* Great-Britain?

*A.* The Learned Dr. *Hammond* is of Opinion, that the Word *Yule* is taken from the Latin *Jubilum*, as that signifies a time of Rejoicing and Festivity; it is certain that *Jubilum* it self is taken from the *Hebrew* יובל, signifying the longer and louder sounding of the Trumpet, which was used to call Men to Assemblies, and Festivals. And from thence we know that was their Word to signifie any Festivity either Day or Year. But the *Hebrew* י being pronounced by most Nations like *y*. and not as *j* Consonant, *jubil* may without any Difficulty be supposed changed into *yubil*. And as for the other Change in the Word, the softning the *b*, or turning it into *u*, nothing is more ordinary. This Derivation of *Yule* is at least more probable, than that which the Puritans out of their Zeal against the observing of Christmas and other Festivals, formerly suggested. For they imagined that Christmas had it first Rice from the degenerate Christians conforming themselves to the mad Feasts of the *Romans*, called *Saturnalia*, which were kept in *December* in Honour of *Saturn* the Father of the Gods, in which there was a Feast offered to *Ceres* Goddess of Corn, and a Hymn Sung in her Praise, called ἴυλος or ἴουλος from whence say they, *Yule* is derived. But this conceit of theirs proceeded from their Ignorance in Antiquity. The *Saturnalia*, 'tis true were a *Roman* Feast, celebrated by them in *December* and often continued the whole Month. But for *Ceres*'s Games, they appear not to have any thing to do there, but to be of the *Greek* Original; and the offering of the Sheaf to her, (which is indeed by *Theocritus Eidyll*: 10 and others called ἴουλος) was practiced only by the Heathen *Greeks*, as far as we can find.

Q. Gentlemen, *There being a Fish (very uncommon in* Lisbon) *called by Name a* Nummfish,

 *which*

*which if taken hold of while alive, immediately Numms the Joints; so that the Part which is touch'd is void of any feeling, during the time one holds it, I desire you'll inform me in your next the reason thereof which will ever lay an Obligation on*

*Your Admirer and Humble Servant,* J. S.

*A.* This is better known to the English by the Name of *Crampfish*, called in the *Latin Torpedo*, a Description of which See in Mr. *Ray*'s Edition of *Willoughby*'s *Ichthyographia*. The strange benumming Faculty it is endued with is not easily accounted for: only it is to be observed that one may touch it without any Danger, either when it is Dead or when it lyes still. Hence *Alphonsus Borellus* concludes that the Stupifaction does not proceed from any poisonous Quality proceeding from the Body of the Fish, but meerly from the violent Trembling and Convulsions the Fish is put into, especially when touched near the Throat, where there are such a vast Multitude of Nerves and Muscles.

Q. Hon. Gentlemen, *What is the essential difference between the two Elements, of Air and Water.*

*Your Humble Servant,* J. T.

*A.* Dr. *Hook* seems to be of Opinion that the Air is nothing else but a kind of Tincture or Solution of Terrestrial and aqueous Particles dissolved in and agitated by the Æther: If so, Water and Air are not essentially distinguished.

Q. *This is very strange,* APOLLO! *I have appear'd before your Shrine in all manner of shapes, but have very rarely had any Notice taken of me. I address'd you once in Divinity, with a Scruple of Conscience, but meet no Answer; then I turn'd Poet, but you gave me a kick, on which I forsook that Art. Next I was a Philosopher, but then you was as Mute as Midnight. I took upon me to be an Humorist, on which you gave me a scurvy bite, which made me Heartsick of such like Attempts. After this I turn'd Lover, but wou'd not for the World, have had my Mistress seen your Answer, for then she had banish'd me for ever. Being so scurvily disappointed in my expectations, I attempted a Question in Metaphysics, but (pardon the irreverence of the Comparison) your Oracle was then as Dumb as a Dead Dog. After that, I approach'd with a Law Query, and you sent me to the Lawyers for a Solution; which I cou'd have done without your Advice, cou'd I have afforded a Fee, besides the Case was not my own, so was willing to bestow but a Penny upon it. Being still thus baulk'd, I sent you a Question in Physick, and you sent me to the Doctors, and I find I might have gone to the Devil for any Care you took of me. At length to secure to my self more Civil Usage, I chang'd Sex, and Subscrib'd* SILVIA. *Thought I, any thing that gave you a Notion of the Feminine Gender, wou'd raise a Titilation, and engage your Respect, but you gave me such an Answer, as made me ready to bepiss my Peticoats, and to forswear ever changing Sexes again. Nor have I only been thus constant a Devotee at your Shrine, but have also suffer'd much for my Zeal towards you. Once neglecting my Masters Business to Write to you (for you must know I am the Moiety of an Attorny's Giblets) I had a sound box of the Ear for my Pains; another time, having clear'd my Pockets at the* Cock, *the Night before, I trotted a Mile and a Quarter (Lawful measure of* England) *to deliver my Letter my self, and what griev'd me to the Heart was, that Letter, hath layn in the dark shades of Oblivion to this Day. Now, Dear, Sweet, Obliging* APOLLO, *be so Courteous as to inform me, why I have been thus scurvily us'd, and you will much engage your Querist, who at this present time of Writing is,*

PHILANDER.

*A.* Monsieur *Proteus*, we have long observ'd you in all your shapes, but the Principle thing we observ'd was, that there was little in you worthy our Observation. You appear to be one of those Sparks (of which kind, we have many in Town) who set up for an Understanding in Generals, before they have attain'd to it, in any one particular, to their own discredit, and the injury of their Country; of which they might have been useful Members, did they confine their Labours to one Art. Thus one shall mistake his Talents, and prove a wretched Philosopher, when he might have made a good Shoemaker. Another appears a Blockhead in Divinity, when he might have attain'd to the perfect Mistery of an Ale-Draper: But unpardonable above all, are they, who aim at every thing, and are good at nothing. Therefore our Friendly Advice is, as you are the Apurtenance of an Attorney, to attempt no other Discoveries, than of the Secrets in the *Green Bag*, and you may possibly come to live thereby, provided you make your whole Application thereunto. For ever renounce the *Cock*, and confine your self to so just a Diet, as may not exceed two Drams, the Importunate call of Nature; but if you scatter abroad your Idea's as you have hitherto done, on various Objects, and not collect them into one Body for a particular Use, we cannot long promise you Immunity from a Stone Doublet.

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# POEMS.

Q. APOLLO *pray say,*
*If you have any way,*
*T'excuse your Prediction of late;*
*Which so boldly you,*
*Did say wou'd ensue,*
*And be unavoidable Fate.*

*The Wars you pretended,*
*Wou'd quickly be ended;*
*And cruell Hostilities cease;*
*All* Europe *wou'd be,*
*From Bloody Scenes free,*
*And Crown'd with a durable* Peace.

*Young* Anjou *in vain*
*Hop'd longer to Reign,*
*But yield to King* Charles *his just Right.*
*Nor ever be led*
*Again to make Head;*
*Disgrac'd by so shameful a Flight.*

*Wise*

*Wise* Phœbus *pray tell us,*
( *Impos'd upon Fellows* )
*Where now is the* Peace *you foreshew* ;
*How can we opine,*
*You ought can Divine,*
*Or tell us one Word that is True,*

*By all 'tis believ'd,*
Anjou *has retriev'd,*
*The Fortune, which lately he lost* :
*And tho' we so fully,*
*Believ'd him a Bully,*
*The Consequence Answers his Boast,*

*Is't not too as plain,*
Charles *has lost all* Spain,
*His Army in Battle defeated* ;
*And tho' they prove Manfull,*
*There is but an Handfull,*
*That back again safely retreated.*

*How can it prove true,*
*A* Peace *will ensue,*
*When such great advantage is gain'd,*
*Or which way believe,*
*A* Turn *we can give,*
*When by such great Losses restrain'd.*

*A,* Thus Mortals below,
Their Judgment bestow,
On meer superficial view;
And if Causes lye,
Not plain to the Eye,
Can never believe they are true,

Tho' every Hour,
Beyond their weak Power
To Judge, they see Objects arise,
Yet know not their Cause,
Nor concealed Laws,
Hid from their Inquisitive Eyes.

Nay if Things don't hit,
As they fancy fit,
They strait are so fond to conclude,
That *Heav'n* knows no Ways
Besides to display
It's Will, which is imp'ously rude.

Was not last Campaign,
The Vict'ry in *Spain,*
Beyond all Conception or Thought,
Then tell us why may,
A more glorious Day
Not by th' same Pow'rs be wrought.

But whence is the boast,
Of *Anjou* and's Host,
On what has he now gotten more,
Has he ought but *Spain,*
Recover'd again
Of which he'd Possession before ?

Nay did he not drain
His Realms, to maintain,
The Forces the *French* did advance,
Who must return Home,
When longer Days come,
For securing the Borders of *France.*

While *Charles* we recruit,
Upon the least Suit,
And *Anjou* in Force is Diminish'd;
You need not to doubt,
E'er a Year comes about,
But th' *Peace* we foretold, will be finish'd.

'Tis pleasant to hear,
The Proofs which appear,
Of Wealth they had got by the Fight ;
And yet said before,
Th' *Allies* were all poor,
Which way was it now they came by't ?

If they'd it from *Spain,*
*Anjou* has again,
But what was his Subjects before ;
How can they persuade,
They Richer are made,
Upon so ridic'lous a score ?

But *Lies* and *Romance,*
Are the Province of *France,*
Which shews that her *Cause* is unsound ;
While *Truth* the *Allies,*
More gen'rously prize,
Who always the *Victor* is found.

☞ Any Person may have the *Index* to the Second Volume of the *British Apollo,* also whole Sets Bound or Unbound, and Single Sheets to make up Sets of the said Volume, of the Men in their Walks, or of *J. Mayo,* over against *Water-Lane, Fleet-Street.*

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*SIR,*

THE Letters from the Hague, Jan. 9. Advise that in a Conference that was lately held between certain Foreign Ministers and those of this State. Notice was given, that the French had fill'd their Magazines upon the Frontiers with Corn from England and these Countries ; That now it must be confess'd, that a great many Pasports were granted by their High-Mightinesses, for transporting that Commodity into Brabant and Flanders, to provide the Magazines of this State ; but at the same time, the utmost Caution was taken, to prevent the Abuse of

of those Pasports; That if, after all, Fraud has been us'd by the Merchants, they ran the Risque of being severely punish'd for it; That 'tis highly probable their High-Mightinesses will hereafter be more sparing of such Pasports than they have been; That as the Enemy cannot furnish their Magazines but with Waggon-Carriage, and that by impracticable Roads, especially at this Season of the Year, a Design is form'd, to oblige them to empty those they now have, by giving them Umbrage at the March of Troops; That 'tis not in the least doubted, but for fear we should break thro' their strong Lines, they will draw down the Troops that are quarter'd far up in France, to defend them; and that by this means their Magazines will be exhausted, beyond Recovery; That Troops are now perhaps, or will be speedily, on March to give them this Umbrage; That as for the Magazines of the Allies, they are not only very plentifully provided already; but whatever shall be taken from them by Reason of the Enterprize in question, may, with Ease and at a very inconsiderable Expence, be made good, thro' the great Conveniency of the Carriage by Water, the Rivers being now open, and in the Power of the High Allies.

*London*, January the 5th.

Robert Walpole, Esq. has resign'd his Office of Treasurer of the Navy, and is succeeded by Ralph Freeman, Esq.

Francis Gwynn, Esq. is appointed Postmaster General of Great Britain.

Which is all from Yours, *&c.*

†*† Notice is hereby given to all Gentlemen that have Subscribed to the first Volume of the *British Apollo* in Octavo, that the said Book will be Published the 12th of this Instant *January*, where all Persons may have their Books at those Places where they Subscribed at, *Viz.* Mr. *Clarks* in *Birching-Lane*. Mr. *Woodwards* in *Scalding-Alley*, both near the *Royal-Exchange*: Mr. *Carters* in St. *Pauls Church-Yard*. Mr. *Bickerton* in *Little-Britain*, Booksellers, or of *J. Mayo*, Printer hereof, over against *Water-Lane*, *Fleet-street*.

## *ADVERTISEMENTS.*

AT the Office of Insurance on Marriage, in *Bolt-Court*, *Fleet-Street*, any Person by Paying 2 s. for a Policy, Stamps and Entrance, and 2 *s.* towards each Marriage, until their own, may secure to themselves 200. *Note*, Ten Persons, for 4 *l.* 6 *s.* by them paid, received above 390 *l.* and Two others, in 14 Days will receive near 200 *l.* and after that time each Claim will amount to above 120 *l.* which will be daily more and more, till full, which sufficiently shews the Advantages of this Office are much greater than any other of this kind pretend to.

A General Meeting of the Subscribers was held at *Sadler's-Hall*, in *Cheapside*, on *Thursday*, *October* the 19, 1710, and a Second Six Trustees were added to the former, to whom Security is given, pusuant to the Proposals which may be had *Gratis*, at the Office.

FROM the Office of Insurance on Marriage, in King's Head Court, in Petticoat Lane, near Bishopsgate Street.

Notice is hereby given, that since the Death of Mr. Tho. Edwards late Director of this Office, the same is continued by his Widow and Administratrix, where daily Attendance is given, and Policies delivered out as usual.

N. *B.* This Office hath met with such success, that above Fourteen hundred Persons have already subscribed, and it is not doubted but it will be compleat within 5 or 6 Weeks, that Claims will begin to be paid by the 16th Instant, the said Mr. Edwards having, before his death, caused 12 Trustees to be chosen at Sadler's-Hall, to whom Security is given, according to the Articles of Settlement, and the said Trustees are resolved to support and encourage the said Widow and Administratrix in this lawful Undertaking.

The Office on Births is in like manner continued, where daily Attendance is given and Policies delivered out as usual.

AT the Faithful Office of Insurance at the Widow Pratt's Coffee-House, in Cat-Eaton-Street, by St. Lawrence's Church, nigh Guild-Hall; were lately opened Two Subscriptions upon Marriage, One of 5 s. which entitles the Insurer to 500 l. and the Other 2 s. 6 d. which entitles the Insurer to 250 l. and as many as Insure in both, will be entitled to 750 l. provided the Societies be compleat, otherwise in proportion. Note, any Person, if they come speedily may enter upon 3 Months. ——— At the same Place are open'd Two Subscriptions on Births of Children, One of 5 s. and the Other 2 s. 6 d. where the Subscribers will be entitled to the respective Summs above mention'd. In both these Societies on Births, any Person may enter upon 6 Weeks or 2 Months, and so on to 5 Months and no further, by which means these Offices will undoubtedly subsist and be carried on from Year to Year. Note, that herein, we do not oblige any Person to Baptize their Children, but only to bring a Certificate that the Child liv'd 24 Hours after its Birth. Proposals may be had Gratis, at the Office, where constant Attendance is given.

*THE Front side of a good House, Situate in a Clear Airy Court, in Fleet-street, not far from Temple-Bar, is to be Lett, with great Conveniencies, commodious for five or six in Family. Enquire at Steward's Coffee-House, in Three-King-Court, Fleet street.*

A Patent under the Great Seal of England has been granted to Charles Holman in Red-Lion-Street in Southwark, for the making of his London Ink-Powder for Records. Being Most Excellent for all Persons to make their Writing-Ink as black and as strong as they please. Each Six-penny Paper makes a Pint of the best, or Pint and half, or Quart for Shop-keeper's common Writing or Marking-Ink, only by shaking or stirring it in so much Rain or River-Water; and it amends all weak and pale Ink, or Ink spoiled by the Frost, and Directions to each Paper of Powder, to prevent Ink from Freezing. 'Tis Sold by most Stationers, Booksellers and Haberdashers in and about London; and by Shop-keepers in the chiefest Cities and Towns in England. And that none may be imposed on by any false Pretenders, Cheats or Counterfeits, this only has been publickly Experienced for many Years, and Appoved for the best Ink in most parts of the World.

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